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for example, sickle-shaped splice organizers 32, which can be taken out vertically upwards for service work. The led-in optical waveguides 24 are deflected by means of indicated guides 25 such that it is not possible for bending to go below the minimum permissible bending radii.

Represented in Figure 6 is a cylindrical cable closure 5 of microcables, which is closed off towards the earth side in a hood shape and is accessible from the surface 6 via a cover 20. The cover 20 can withstand high loading and closes off the cable closure 5 pressure-watertightly by means of a sealing system 21. In the case of this embodiment shown, the cable lead-in unit 13 is housed in the upper part of the closure, to which the pipe 43 (Fig. 7) of the microcable is connected in a pressure-tight manner, with the aid of an adaptation sleeve 87. The optical waveguides are led in through this cable lead-in unit 13 and deposited in excess lengths on a plurality of levels within the closure space. Here, the excess lengths 30 of the led-in optical waveguides are stored in the upper deck 28 and the excess lengths 38 of the outgoing optical waveguides are stored in the lower deck 28a. The lead-throughs 41 in the respective separating plates 29 make it possible for the optical waveguides to be led through from one level to the other. The lower region of the cable closure serves as splicing space 23, in which the splices 26 are fastened on removable splice organizers 32. If service or splicing work is necessary, after removal of the cover 20 the excess-length assemblies 30 and 38 are taken out, so that finally the splice organizers can be removed. The hood-shaped termination of the inner wall 22 of the cable closure 5 is curved such that it can serve as a guide for the optical waveguides 31 leading to the splices. The marking 25 is intended to indicate that corresponding guides for optical waveguides or optical waveguide groups can also be used in the splicing space, allowing the clarity of the arrangement to be improved. The leading away of the optical waveguides into the connected

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